



Tips and Frequently Asked Questions

Seven Tips for Developing a Fulbright Project

1. Start early (preferably in the second semester of your Junior year).
2. Read the Fulbright Student Program information booklet carefully.
3. Work closely with one or two professors in developing your ideas for a project and writing your proposal and narrative cv.
4. Devise a project that is feasible and that builds on your demonstrated abilities, education, and language skills. (Don't apply to study piano in Vienna unless you are an accomplished pianist. Don't propose studying the effects of the Euro currency unless you have a strong background in Economics. Don't propose collecting Turkish folk tales unless you speak Turkish.)
5. Affiliate with a university or indigenous organization in your host country.
6. Get a letter of support from a relevant person in your host country.
7. Begin a Fulbright Grant proposal only if you are willing to work very hard on it. Fulbright Grants are big league.

There are six important parts to a Fulbright application:

1. Statement of Proposed Study

- Whether you are a graduating senior or a doctoral student, you will need to show that what you plan to study and/or research can best, or only, be done in the place you propose to go. The further along in your academic career (i.e., graduate study) you are, the more certain of this you will have to be. Keep in mind the questions that will be asked of your application:
 - Is the project realistic?
 - Is the site appropriate?
 - Are you academically qualified to carry out what you propose?
 - Why must this work be done abroad (or, could it be done in the US)?
- Graduating Seniors: your application should make the case for a further year's study; it does not have to be detailed in terms of research, but it should make a case for why a particular university or institution has been chosen. For example, are there certain faculty there; is there a recognized department, or are course offerings especially conducive to your interests? These sorts of questions should be answered in detail. It is important for all applicants to make a strong case for the institution you have chosen.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a typical Fulbright project?

- For the most part, Fulbright grantees design their own projects that last for one academic year. Projects may include university coursework, independent library or field research, classes in a music conservatory or art school, special projects in the social or life sciences, or a combination. All students need to be affiliated with educational and/or research institutions in the host country, even if they are engaged primarily in research and do not plan to enroll in regular classes.
- Graduating seniors normally enroll in regularly university coursework abroad for which they have had some undergraduate preparation.

Do countries prefer certain kinds of applications?

- Fulbright publishes Individual Country Summaries that describe what types of projects each country allows and/or prefers, restrictions that may apply, and any language requirements.

What sort of projects have St. Thomas students done?

- St. Thomas students have studied Swiss neutrality in the context of cooperation with Europe in Switzerland; unemployment in Germany, and Middle East Studies in Egypt. Students have also been awarded Teaching Assistantships.

How hard is it to get a Fulbright?

- Fulbright awards are VERY competitive. Consider the time you put into an application equivalent to the time and effort you'd put into a 1- or 2-credit course. To be successful, Fulbright applications must be well-researched and well-planned out. Last year, 5,923 applications were submitted for 1,134 grants; that's about a 21% success rate. But the "odds" vary from country to country. For example, the United Kingdom and Ireland are very, very competitive: 27 applicants to the UK for every 1 award and 37 to 1 for Ireland. On the other hand, the ratio of applicants to awards is only 5 to 1 for Greece and less than 2 to 1 for Indonesia.
- This type of data is at the back of the Fulbright US Student Program booklet. Remember that you improve your chances by submitting a carefully researched and skillfully devised application.

Can I submit more than one Fulbright application?

- No, not in the same year. One application per person per year is allowed. However, unsuccessful applicants may apply again.

Can I apply for more than one country?

- Sometimes, but usually not. Applications are usually for one country. However, for the Regional programs, you may submit a multicountry proposal.

for up to three countries in the same region. See the Fulbright Student Program information booklet or www.iie.org/fulbright for details.

Can I get a Fulbright grant to study in the United States?

- No.

If I don't get a Fulbright, can I apply again in the future?

- Yes

I studied abroad. Will that help or hurt my chances of getting a Fulbright?

- Applicants who have had extensive foreign experience are at a disadvantage. However, "extensive" time abroad means you have spent years abroad. A study abroad experience can actually strengthen your application, especially if your Fulbright proposal will expand or draw on your studies abroad or if you can use your study abroad time as preparation for a Fulbright project. For example, if you did a research paper on journalistic freedom in Egypt while you were an undergraduate spending a semester in Cairo and now for Fulbright you propose to spend a year taking courses in Journalism in Egypt and will write a Master's thesis on the press—your study abroad experience shows Fulbright that you are academically prepared for your project and it shows that your project may be more feasible than if you had never studied Egyptian journalism before.

Aren't Fulbright Grants just for advanced graduate students?

- No! Definitely not. The most recent Fulbright grantee from St. Thomas was a graduating senior who applied for a one-year certificate program at the American University of Cairo.
- Some countries prefer advanced graduate students, but Fulbright encourages applications from graduating seniors in other countries. Read the "Individual Country Summaries" in the Fulbright Student booklet carefully.
- Graduating seniors will generally be expected to attend regular coursework at a university abroad, but they should describe the study programs they wish to follow as specifically as possible.

Must I be fluent in a second language to apply for a Fulbright?

- Not necessarily. It is important to have language skills equal to the requirements of the project you propose. Sometime, Fulbright allows for language study at the beginning of the grant period. However, don't plan to study Spanish literature at the Master's level if you have only taken one or two semesters of Spanish.
- There are countries where you can undertake a Fulbright project in English. Many countries, other than the obvious ones such as the UK or Australia, have English as their official language.

For answers to more questions, consult the article "General Questions Answered" by Fulbright Program Managers, *Fulbrighter* newsletter, Sept. 2004:
http://www.imakenews.com/fulbright/e_article000304348.cfm